

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-36, 38-44, 46-52, 54-59 and 61-78 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 21, 22, 30-32, 39, 40, 47, 48, 54, 55, 62 and 78 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner the interview conducted on May 4, 2006 with Dr. Debashis Bhattacharya and Applicants' attorney. The interview discussion focussed on similar changes to the independent claims. For example, the last paragraph of independent claim 1 was changed by inserting "dynamically" before "generating" and "netlist" after "transistor" so as to read as follows:

"dynamically generating at least one design-specific cell representative of said at least one predefined cell of said functional block, wherein said design-specific cell is generated, characterized and optimized at the transistor netlist level based on said design objective of said IC design."

It was agreed that U.S. Patent No. 6,301,692 to Kumashiro et al., hereafter Kumashiro, lacks this paragraph because Kumashiro does not disclose or teach "dynamically generating" or optimizing "at the transistor netlist level". It was agreed that if amended in this manner, independent claims 1, 11, 21, 30, 31, 39, 47 and 54 would be allowable over Kumashiro.

Independent claims 1, 11, 21, 30, 31, 39, 47 and 54 have been so amended. Claim 78 has been amended for antecedent purposes by changing "transistor level" to "transistor netlist level". Claims 12, 22, 32, 40, 48, 55 and 62 have been amended by eliminating a double character space.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-36, 38-44, 46-52, 54-59 and 61-78 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated Kumashiro.

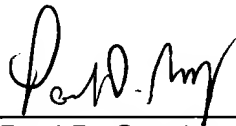
As set forth in the above discussion of the Interview, this rejection is obviated by the amendment to independent claims 1, 11, 21, 30, 31, 39, 47 and 54. Therefore, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-36, 38-44, 46-52, 54-59 and 61-78 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Kumashiro should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth above that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) be withdrawn, that claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-36, 38-44, 46-52, 54-59 and 61-78 be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that this amendment places the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and passed to issue. If this amendment is deemed to not place the application in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that it be entered for the purpose of appeal.

Respectfully Submitted,

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